

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) An agent for ~~treating or preventing a cerebrovascular disorder~~ reducing an infarcted area of a cerebral infarction, wherein the agent comprises ~~[[a]] an isolated~~ nucleic acid encoding a ~~protein effective as a~~ hepatocyte growth factor protein and a hemagglutinating virus of Japan (HVJ)-envelope.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The agent of claim 1, wherein the agent is in the form of a tablet, pill, sugar-coated tablet, capsule, liquid gel, ointment, syrup, slurry, or suspension.

4 - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A method for ~~treating or preventing a cerebrovascular disorder, wherein the method comprises introduction of the agent of claim 1~~ reducing an infarcted area of a cerebral infarction comprising:

administering an agent comprising an isolated nucleic acid encoding a hepatocyte growth factor protein and an HVJ-envelope by direct injection into the subarachnoid space of a subject prior to the occurrence of said cerebral infarction, wherein said method results in a reduction of the infarcted area.

7 - 11. (Canceled)

12. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the agent is in the form of a tablet, pill, sugar-coated tablet, capsule, liquid gel, ointment, syrup, slurry, or suspension.

13. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the hepatocyte growth factor protein is a human hepatocyte growth factor protein.

14. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the hepatocyte growth factor protein is a human hepatocyte growth factor protein.

15. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein direct injection into the subarachnoid space comprises direct injection into a cisternal space.